



**Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2022 – 9:00 am to 10:30 am
Video Conference**

In Attendance: Dr. Bimpe Adewusi, Liz Alston, Rich Austria, Nina Belli, Jay Benke, Teresa Cowing, Mary Dirksen, Chelsea Holcomb, Molly McDade-Hood, Judge Valerie Love, Robin Miller, Esther Nelson, Richard Sheldon, Amanda Swanson, Cassie Trahan, Letetia Wilson
Absent: Joyclyn Bell, Ashley Cadotte, Jim Goodwin, Amber Harchuk, Kaitlyn Hardy, Desiree Lepsey, Florence Mackey, Chad Opitz, Tom Perez, Margaret Scott, JR Ujifusa
Minutes: Sherree Rodriguez

Welcome

Amanda welcomed the group.

Traffickers Study Overview – Raneem Obeidi/Molly McDade-Hood

Raneem Obeidi is a Portland State University researcher working with Multnomah County on a research study of sex traffickers' risk profiles. She shared an overview of the project with the Advisory Committee (AC).

~ The study assessed traffickers risk factors between 2000-2021. Over 1,400 traffickers were reviewed, including convicted, indicted, suspected and victim-offender intersectional traffickers. There have been multiple findings and recommendations for deeper research into charging and convictions, background histories, and the development of a screening tool for individuals suspected of trafficking.

~ Multnomah County plans to develop the screening tool and conduct another study.

Minutes – previous meeting

The AC approved minutes from the February meeting.

Updates

- The national **Interstate Compact** for Juveniles annual business meeting will include a panel discussion trafficking response. Nina Belli will speak on the panel and share Oregon's response as the state is more progressive than most in this field.
- **A Village for One** will begin community-based services in Washington County in June. They have a new therapist starting soon. There are openings in all their programs except Oak Creek.
- **Department of Human Services (DHS)** is moving toward changing the Commercial and Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) screening to include all youth aged 13 and older. Their determination page will be used, and it may be adapted for use in the field.
~ The foster home discussion is still underway concerning developing a home-like residential program for youth recovering from trafficking. They are investigating the work of other states.



- **Safety Compass** has ratified protocols for continuum of care. The Marion County transit system, Cherriots has been trained on trafficking recognition and response.
- **Oregon Youth Authority (OYA)** is working on some ideas for the 2023 Legislative session. There is a demonstration project under consideration for male-identified and trans youth who have been trafficked.
- **Department of Justice (DOJ)** has begun applying for the Improving Outcomes for Victims of Trafficking grant from the federal government. They used previous funding for the Vignettes Project, to provide training for use by county task forces. That project is still in the works. Funding for the next grant cycle will be used for labor trafficking projects. They hope to hire a Labor Trafficking Specialist.
 - ~ The governor appointed Amanda Swanson to represent DOJ on the Cannabis Task Force. The work is established as a support for the work on Labor Trafficking.
 - ~ Legislature has a state Labor Trafficking Task Force, which Amanda also serves on.
 - ~ In September, DOJ will host an in-person training. They are developing a curriculum on indicators and response. There is a Portland State University researcher working on the protocol bill. They will provide a report on standardized crisis and non-crisis response protocols.
 - ~ DOJ has recently hired a trainer to develop trauma informed law enforcement (LE) training, based on a funded legislative mandate. They hope to develop an investigation training with this focus.

CSEC and Sex Trafficking Intervention Moving Forward

The group discussed barriers to identifying and serving victims, training needs and how the AC can affect change in these areas. These are areas of concern:

- Active substance abuse, particularly the increase of heroin, methamphetamines, and fentanyl
- Lack of detox facilities for minors
- Lack of resources for substance abuse support south of Marion County and in central and eastern Oregon
- Communication between agencies and programs of what is available so that kids can be better informed before being directed to a service
- Educating statewide victim services staff on available resources and what to expect; a training video would be especially helpful; especially with rapid turnover rate
- Culturally appropriate services
- Legal and medical bottle necks
- Intersectionality in jail system for trafficked victims on charges related to being trafficked
- Victim-based training for LE
- Counties' failure to investigate trafficking
- Federal funding based on number of youth in each state vs number of active crimes



- Serving youth in custody for serious crimes against buyers; find better ways to apply the laws against sex trafficking
- Advocates for juvenile offenders (for those who assault buyers or traffickers)
- Hearsay laws are needed for trafficking victims
- Shift the LE focus toward going after buyers; toughen buying laws

ACTIONS:

- Mary will send information to the group about a LE training sponsored by Dept of Transportation, by way of Sherree.
- Amanda will review the list of barriers and prepare for further group discussion in August.

August Agenda – *Training needs, building consistency across the state and what the AC can do to help*

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Scheduled meetings:

August 5

November 4